

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TREASURY

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

INFO USSAGE NKP

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COGARD

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST BY POUCH

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 13 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

SEN NUNN OF SASC, WHO MADE INDOCHINA FACT-FINDING TRIP

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EARLY THIS YR, WRITES REPORT WARNING C-F "IN SHAMBLES,"

AND THERE CAN BE NO GUARANTEE OF SVN'S FUTURE. REPORT

RECOMMENDS US DEVELOP CAREFULLY THOUGHT-OUT PROGRAM OF

GVN AID LIMITED, AFTER JULY 1, 1977, TO LEVEL OF AID

RECEIVED BY NVN. ADDS AID SHOULD BE CONTINGENT UPON REMOVAL OF TROOPS AND PLANES FROM THAILAND. NUNN SAYS GVN MAY NOT SURVIVE EVEN WITH ADEQUATE US AID, BUT CLEAR IT HAS LITTLE CHANCE WITHOUT IT. CONTINUED AID TO GVN SHOULD BE COUPLED TO PROPOSED PLEDGE AGAINST US MIL FORCES BEING RECOMMITTED TO SVN UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES SHORT OF DIRECT MIL INTERVENTION BY ANOTHER MAJOR POWER. REP RYAN PRESENTED ROUGHLY SIMILAR REPORT TO HFAC LAST WEEKEND (PHINQ).

SUN'S CORDDRY BELIEVES NUNN REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS MAY FIGURE IMPORTANTLY IN COMING VN DEBATES. QUOTES NUNN'S MAIN PROPOSAL THAT US LONG-TERM POLICY OF LIMITING COMBINED MIL/ECON AID TO SVN TO LEVELS PROVIDED TO NVN BY USSR AND CHINA WILL SERVE NOTICE ON THEM THAT COMMUNISTS WILL NOT WIN BY US' DEFAULT; TWO VNS WOULD

BE ON NOTICE THAT OUTCOME OF STRUGGLE WILL BE DECIDED BY OWN EFFORTS AND MOTIVATION, AND THIS MAY BRING ABOUT REALIZATION BY BOTH THAT NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IS PREFERRED COURSE. NUNN ADDED THAT AID OVER NEXT TWO YRS SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO PUT SVN IN EQUAL POSITION WITH NVN IN AMMO, OIL, PARTS AND MED SUPPLIES. CORDDRY COMMENTS THAT THIS MIGHT MEAN INCREASED US AID, SINCE SINO-SOVIET ECON/MIL AID "OBVIOUSLY EXCEEDS" US TOTAL THIS YR. NUNN ALSO SAID MATCHING AID MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY VIGOROUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH MOSCOW AND PEKING ON REDUCED LEVELS. SEN ADDED THAT IF SVN FALLS FOR LACK OF AMMO, "WE WILL ALL FIND OUT THE EFFECT ON THE AMERICAN POSITION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD"; AND IF SVN OVERRUN AND MANY EXECUTED, "BURDEN MAY SHIFT TO THOSE WHO ADVOCATED A CUT-OFF." IN COVERING LETTER TO STENNIS, NUNN EXPRESSED ALARM AT "SEEMINGLY OPEN-ENDED AND UNCERTAIN PROSPECTS" OF US INVOLVEMENT, AND LACK OF INFO ON HOW LONG AND AT WHAT LEVEL AID MUST CONTINUE.

WP'S GETLER NOTES NUNN RECOMMENDED US WITHDRAW COMBAT UNCLASSIFIED

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AIR FORCES FROM THAILAND AND STOP TRYING "BLUFF" HANOI, SINCE "SUPERPOWER SHOULD NOT BLUFF, UNLESS WE ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE BLUFF." SEN ARGUED THAT PRESENCE OF US WARPLANES IN THAI BASES RAISES FALSE HOPES IN SAIGON AND CAUSES UNEASINESS IN US. SAID PERHAPS US COULD USE PLANE WITHDRAWAL TO BARGAIN WITH HANOI FOR MIA ACCOUNTING, AND "UNDERSTANDING" WITH SOVIET AND CHINA ABOUT LIMITING AID TO BOTH VNS. NUNN ADVISED INFO ON COMMUNIST AID TO HANOI SHOULD GO TO CONGRESS BEFORE IT VOTES ON EXTRA MIL AID FOR THIS YR OR NEXT YR'S AID. ALSO SAID US ECON/MIL AID SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS PACKAGE BECAUSE THEY ARE USED TOGETHER.

IN PP, SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ TOLD AP IN INTERVIEW THAT WITHOUT SUPPLEMENTAL, GKR WILL LOSE WAR BEFORE YR IS OUT. ADDED THAT EVEN WITH MORE AID "WE CANNOT WIN, BUT CAN HOLD THE OTHER SIDE TO STALEMATE THAT MAY LEAD TO NEGOTIATIONS" (BALTO N-A 2/12; PHINQ). WESTERN SUPPLY EXPERT SAYS WITHOUT INCREASED AID, FANK WILL RUN OUT OF AMMO IN TWO MONTHS (AP SUN, CHITRIB).

DOD ANNOUNCES APPROVAL OF GKR AID FUNDS TO HIRE COMMERCIAL PLANES UNTIL BIRD AIR BUILDUP COMPLETED (REUTER, NYT). NYT'S SCHANBERG IN PP REPORTS EXPANDED US AIRLIFT IN OPERATION IN ATTEMPT TO REPLENISH DWINDLING VITAL SUPPLIES, ESPECIALLY AMMO. NOTES AIR SUPPLY BECOMING MORE IMPORTANT, BUT CANNOT YET

BE DESCRIBED AS LARGE AIRLIFT. REVIEWS BIRD AIR OPERATIONS; COMMENTS THAT TOTAL CAPACITY OF PROBABLE 22-24 DAILY FLIGHTS AMOUNTS TO 360 TONS, ABOUT 2/3 OF GKR AMMO NEEDS, AND IS EXPECTED TO EASE AMMO SITUATION. SAYS NOT CLEAR WHETHER DOD INTENDS KEEP EXPANDING BIRD AIR AS SUPPLY SHORTAGE WORSENS OR WILL TURN TO WHAT US EMBASSY HAS SAID IS "LAST RESORT" CONTINGENCY OF HUGE USAF AIRLIFT WITH PERHAPS 50-100 FLIGHTS DAILY. STATES ADMIN KNOWN RELUCTANT TO PUT USAF INTO OPERATION FOR FEAR OF FURTHER ANTAGONIZING CONGRESS BY EXPANDING DIRECT INVOLVEMENT. UNCLASSIFIED

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REBEL FORCES FIRED TEN ROCKETS INTO PP AND AIRPORT; ONE HIT NEAR CENTRAL MARKET KILLED AT LEAST FIVE, ACCORDING MIL SOURCES (PHINQ; AP, CHITRIB). ARTILLERY FIRE HITS PP. WESTERN OBSERVERS SAY SHELLING OF CITY WAS POSSIBLE PRELUDE TO MASSIVE ARTILLERY CAMPAIGN. ENEMY FIRED FROM EAST MEKONG BANK, KILLED TEN, ACCORDING POLICE (AP, SUN). WP'S GREENWAY IN PP DESCRIBES CARNAGE AS ROCKETS HIT NEAR CENTRAL MARKET AREA, GIVES DEAD COUNT AS 13. NOTES NOT ENOUGH ROCKETS HIT TO DISRUPT NORMAL LIFE, BUT SUFFICIENT TO CAUSE APPREHENSION.

INSURGENT GUNNERS ALONG MEKONG ATTACKED NAVY CONVOY EN ROUTE FROM PP TO NEAK LUONG; TWO NAVY TRANSPORTS AND ONE 155-MM GUN LOST, ACCORDING SOURCES. NVN NEWS AGENCY CLAIMS REBELS HAVE SUNK OR DAMAGED 55 SHIPS FROM JAN 20-FEB 6 (AP, SUN). GREENWAY REPORTS INSURGENTS APPARENTLY CAPTURED IMPORTANT MEKONG TOWN LOCATED HALFWAY BETWEEN PP AND NEAK LUONG. SAYS POSSESSION OF TOWN WOULD INCREASE STRANGLEHOLD ALONG RIVER.

CSM'S SOUTHERLAND IN PP SEES GKR GIRDING FOR MAJOR

BATTLE FOR CONTROL OF MEKONG THAT COULD PROVE ONE OF WAR'S DECISIVE FIGHTS. NOTES NEED TO OPEN RIVER; BELIEVES WITH MEKONG OPEN, GKR MAY WELL SURVIVE DRY SEASON WITH MOST OF CURRENT LINES OF DEFENSE INTACT. SAYS GOVT CONTROLS LITTLE LAND, BUT ABOUT 2/3 OF POPULATION. OPINES INSURGENTS HAVE DONE BETTER JOB THIS YR IN COORDINATING ATTACKS, BUT HAVE FAILED SO FAR TO BREACH CITY'S DEFENSES AND DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE FORCES NECESSARY TO TAKE CAPITAL. OBSERVES FEW IN PP SEEM HOPEFUL ABOUT PROSPECT FOR NEGOTIATIONS. BELIEVES US AND GKR READY TO ACCEPT LAOS-TYPE SETTLEMENT, BUT INSURGENTS VOW TO FIGHT ON TO FINAL VICTORY UNLESS US WITHDRAWS SUPPORT FOR GKR; REBELS MAY SEE VICTORY NEAR, SO HAVE LITTLE REASON TO BARGAIN.

OIL SOURCES SAY MOBIL FOUND OIL AND GAS IN FIRST EXPLORATORY WELL OFF SVN COAST, BUT NOT IN COMMERCIAL UNCLASSIFIED

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QUANTITIES (CSM; CHITRIB; AP, WP).

NYT'S MARKHAM IN SAIGON DESCRIBES GVN MOVE AGAINST PAPERS AS "STUNNING BLOW" TO VOCAL BUT DISORGANIZED OPPOSITION. RECENT PROMOTIONS AND CHANGES OF COMMAND HAVE REINFORCED THIEU'S POWER BASE IN ARMY AND POLICE. GEN TOAN, WITH "ESTABLISHED REPUTATION FOR CORRUPTION," WAS APPOINTED TO HEAD AREA AROUND SAIGON WHILE AMB. MARTIN IN WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATIONS. SAYS SAIGON POLITICIANS SEE MOVES AS SIGNALS THIEU WILL LEAN ON ARMY AND POLICE IN DIFFICULTIES THAT LOOM AHEAD.

MARKHAM ALSO TELLS OF CLAMP-DOWN ON HOA HAO AFTER LONG AND INCONCLUSIVE NEGOTIATIONS. STATES RECURRENT THEME OF GVN IS "REAR AREA" MUST REMAIN CALM. GOVT SCRAMBLING TO PUT TOGETHER "STRATEGIC RESERVE" TO MEET EXPECTED COMMUNIST THRUSTS. QUOTES EUROPEAN DIPLOMAT WHO THINKS MANPOWER SITUATION IS CENTRAL TO LATEST MOVES. DRAFT LAWS BEING TIGHTENED, AND OFFICIALS SAY HOA HAO AREAS HAVE NOT CONTRIBUTED THEIR SHARE TO DEFENSE. THIEU PRESUMABLY DOES NOT WANT TO TIE DOWN TROOPS AND POLICE TO PUT DOWN DEMONSTRATIONS WHEN MEN NEEDED ELSEWHERE. INFORMED DIPLOMATS ALSO BELIEVE THIEU'S INTERNAL POSITION MAY SUFFER SEVERE SHOCK IF US DOES NOT GIVE MIL AID SUPPLEMENTAL. SAYS SVN OFFICER CONCEDES THERE IS "LOT OF GRUMBLING" ABOUT THIEU'S LEADERSHIP, AND GVN DESPERATELY NEEDS EXTRA MONEY.

WP'S THOMAS LIPPMAN TELLS OF MEETING OF NEWSMEN AT NY INTL CENTR FOR PHOTOGRAPHY ABOUT JOURNALISTS MIA IN INDOCHINA. SAYS MOST OF 200 WHO ATTENDED WERE INDOCHINA NEWS VETERANS, AND CAME MOSTLY TO SEE EACH

OTHER. QUOTES CRONKITE THAT INTL COMMITTEE TO FREE JOURNALISTS HELD IN SEA EVEN CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED "HIRING AN EX-SPOOK" TO ORGANIZE MISSION INTO GUERRILLA TERRITORY IN CAMBODIA TO SEEK INFO ON MIA NEWSMEN; COMMITTEE NOW "BEREFT OF IDEAS."

LIPPMAN NOTES THAT FEW TIMES IN EVENING POLITICAL DIFFERENCES AND ANTIWAR VIEWS SURFACED; SAYS SHIPLER'S REFERENCE TO REBELS AS "COMMUNISTS" AND ASSERTION US UNCLASSIFIED

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ALONE AMONG C-F SIGNERS IN FULFILLING ITS TERMS CAUSED "UNCOMFORTABLE SQUIRMING" AMONG SEVERAL, INCLUDING FRANCES FITZGERALD, AND FRED BRANFMAN OF INDOCHINA RESOURCE CENTER. FITZGERALD, WHO RECENTLY VISITED NVN FOR "NEW YORKER," SAID HANOI BELIEVES POLITICAL

SETTLEMENT POSSIBLE IF US STOPS SUPPORTING GVN, AND PRESENT OFFENSIVE ORDERED BECAUSE AFTER TWO YEARS, THERE IS NO "PEACE WITH HONOR." LIPPMAN OPINES THAT ALL PRESENT HAD GOOD TIME DESPITE DIFFERENCES.

2. KOREA

AP (SEOUL) SAYS VOTERS HAVE APPROVED HRES PARK'S "STRONGMAN RULE" BY 3-1 MARGIN, WITH 70 PERCENT OF BALLOTS COUNTED. MORE THAN 80 PERCENT ELIGIBLE WENT TO POLLS, IGNORING OPPOSITION CALL FOR BOYCOTT (CSM). NO DISTURBANCES REPORTED, NO INTIMIDATION OF VOTERS SEEN AT POLLING PLACES IN SEOUL. KOREAN BROADCASTING SYSTEM REPORTS 6.7 MILLION FAVOR, 2.4 MILLION DISAPPROVE PARK'S MAJOR POLICIES, AND 156,000 BALLOTS INVALID, WITH TWO-THIRDS COUNTED. KIM YOUNG SAM ENDED 32-HOUR HUNGER STRIKE AGAINST REFERENDUM AFTER POLLS CLOSED; KIM DAE JUNG SAT THROUGH VOTING HOURS IN ASH WEDNESDAY PROTEST PRAYER SESSION AT RC CATHEDRAL. PARK VOTED AT SCHOOLHOUSE NEAR OFFICE SHORTLY AFTER POLLS OPEN AT 7 A.M. (AP, CHITRIB, SUN, BALTO N-A).

WP'S OBERDORFER IN SEOUL REPORTS "ALMOST COMPLETE" COUNT SHOWS PRES PARK'S MAJOR POLICIES BACKED BY 73.2 PERCENT, OPPOSED BY 25.1 PERCENT OF VOTERS. COMPARED TO 80 PERCENT TURNOUT NATIONWIDE, VIEWS 60 PERCENT IN SEOUL AS SIGN OF "SOME SUCCESS" FOR OPPOSITION BOYCOTT; PARK WON BY NARROW 58-40 PERCENT MARGIN IN SEOUL. COMMENTS VOTE NOT LIKELY TO CHANGE OPPOSITION MINDS, BUT TO EXTENT IT STRENGTHENS PARK'S HAND AT HOME AND ABROAD MIGHT PRESAGE NEW MANEUVERS AND FURTHER CHANGE IN VOLATILE DOMESTIC SITUATION.(AP PHOTO OF PARK VOTING).

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LAT'S JAMESON IN SEOUL SAYS PARK WON VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, BUT NOT "TOTAL ACQUIESCENCE" HE SOUGHT IN REFERENDUM. AND TURNOUT FELL BELOW 91 PERCENT RECORDED IN 1972 REFERENDUM, WHEN PARK WON FAR BIGGER 91 PERCENT APPROVAL. NOTES GOVT TV WEDNESDAY MORNING REBROADCAST PARK'S JAN 22 ANNOUNCEMENT OF REFERENDUM, IN WHICH HE GAVE "ROUSING DEFENSE" OF OWN CAUSE, IN CONTRAST TO BAN ON ANTI-REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN BY OPPOSITION. VIEWS VOTING IN SEOUL AS "NORMAL" WITH NO RESTRICTIONS REPORTED ON OUTSIDERS OBSERVING VOTE OR TABULATION. BUT NOTES NDP REFUSED TO SEND OBSERVERS BECAUSE OF BOYCOTT.

NYT'S HALLORAN IN SEOUL CITES "SUBSTANTIAL VOTE OF CONFIDENCE" FOR PARK, BUT NOTES KIM YOUNG SAM TELLING FOREIGN PRESS THAT TURNOUT, FINAL VOTE COUNT "FABRICATED," REFERENDUM STRENGTHENS OPPOSITION, AND INVITES "TRAGIC DEMISE" OF PARK REGIME "MUCH SOONER." OBSERVES PARK EXPECTED CITE RESULTS TO JUSTIFY STRONG MEASURES TO SUPPRESS OPPOSITION, IF IT IS NOT SILENT, TO PERSUADE US PEOPLE AND CONGRESS HIS RULE APPROVED BY MAJORITY, AND TO ARGUE FOR RESTORATION OF MIL AID CUTS. ADDS MUCH SPECULATION PARK MAY SHAKE-UP GOVT, REPLACE KIM JONG PIL AND OTHERS, AND MAY EVEN NAME OPPOSITION FIGURES TO CABINET IN GESTURE FOR RECONCILIATION, HARMONY.

GLOBE'S STORIN IN SEOUL SEES VOTE ENDORSING PARK'S "AUTHORITARIAN POLICIES." NOTES WARNING BY GOVT LEADERS THAT OPPOSITION "WILL BE DEALT WITH BY LAW" IF THEY DO NOT ACCEPT REFERENDUM OUTCOME. CITES ATTORNEY GENERAL SAYING MONDAY THAT OPPOSITION LEADERS, INCLUDING FORMER PRES YUN PO SUN, COULD FACE ARREST LATER FOR HAVING VIOLATED LAW WHICH BANS CALL FOR BOYCOTT. SUN FRONT PAGES AP PHOTO OF VOTING IN SEOUL.

3. CHINA

SMALL TECHNICAL GROUP OF FIVE TEXTILE EXPERTS,IRST DELEGATION TO REPRESENT PRC STATE TRADING ORGANIZATION, ARRIVING IN US THIS WEEKEND FOR MONTH-LONG LOOK
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AT US MARKET; GROUP, FROM CHINA NATIONAL TEXTILE IMPORT AND EXPORT CORP, IS INTERESTED IN BOTH BUYING AND SELLING. ACCORDING NCUSCT'S PHILLIPS, LARGER GROUP FROM PEKING REPRESENTING CROSS-SECTION OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE EXPECTED HERE IN FALL, REPRESENTING

CHINA COUNCIL FOR PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE. PHILLIPS HOPES THIS IS BEGINNING OF REGULAR COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES "GOING BOTH WAYS." SEES NO POSSIBILITY OF CHINESE TEXTILES SWAMPING US MARKET BECAUSE OF ENORMOUS DOMESTIC DEMAND; WITHOUT MFN TRADE TREATMENT FROM US, CHINESE PRICES NOT CHEAP. FIRST PRC GROUP EXPECTED TRAVEL TO NY NEXT WEEK, THEN VISIT TEXTILE MANUFACTURERS THROUGH COUNTRY; NO PRECISE SCHEDULE RELEASED (AP FEB 12).

FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR DIRECTOR SAYS PRC FOR FIRST TIME WILL PARTICIPATE IN THIS YEAR'S FAIR -- LARGEST AND MOST IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF BOOKMEN -- TAKING PLACE OCT 9-14. PEKING ALSO AGREED TO SEND, FOR FIRST TIME, SAMPLING OF HER CHILDREN'S BOOKS TO CHILDREN'S BOOKS INTERNATIONAL, FAIR AND EXHIBITION TO BE HELD AT BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY IN MAY AND JUNE.

FIFTEEN OF THESE BOOKS IN ENGLISH WILL BE SHOWN BY CHINA BOOKS AND PERIODICALS, US CORP SERVING AS CHIEF IMPORTER OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS PUBLISHED BY FOREIGN LANGUAGE PRESS IN PEKING. CHINA BOOKS PRES SAYS DECISION TO OFFER BOOKS IN BOSTON WAS "STRICTLY COMMERCIAL"; DENIES PEKING PLAYED ANY ROLE IN MATTER.

NYT'S WHITMAN SAYS WHILE DOS OFFICIALS WELCOME CHINA'S ENTRY IN FRANKFURT, THEY FEEL SHE MIGHT LIMIT OFFERINGS TO ART BOOKS AND VOLUMES OF MAO SPEECHES "FOR THE PRESENT." FRANKFURT FAIR DIRECTOR FORESEES LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF DIPLOMATIC TENSION BETWEEN PRC AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN FRANKFURT OR BOSTON, AND NOTES ROC NOT INVITED TO FRANKFURT; BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTOR ADDS THAT ROC WILL NOT BE REPRESENTED AT CHILDREN'S BOOK INTERNATIONAL.

JOC REPORTS USDA'S YEUTTER CONFIRMED LATE TUESDAY THAT AMEMBASSY TAIPEI WILL NEGOTIATE WITH ROC DETAILS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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US GRANT OF 25 MILLION DOLLAR CREDIT TO PAY FOR OVERDUE US COTTON SHIPMENTS.

4. JAPAN

WSJ SAYS "AGGRESSIVE SUPPORT BUYING" BY BANK OF JAPAN SOFTENED DOLLAR SLIDE IN TOKYO SPOT MARKET WEDNESDAY. BOJ SAID TO HAVE BOUGHT UP TO 100 MILLION DOLS TO STEM SHARP SPECULATIVE DECLINE SPARKED BY SIMILAR DROP IN DOLLAR VALUE IN LONDON DAY BEFORE (AP, NYT).

REUTER (TOKYO) NOTES TOP-LEVEL ECON MISSION TO VISIT CUBA NEXT WEEK, SEEK CLOSER ECONOMIC TIES, ACCORDING JAPAN-CUBA ECON SOCIETY. MISSION INCLUDES

STEEL, MACHINERY, AUTO AND TRADING FIRM REPS; EXPECTED TO CONFER WITH CASTRO, OTHER OFFICIALS, ON POSSIBLE COOPERATION WITH LUBA'S SEVENTH 5-YEAR PLAN STARTING NEXT YEAR.

SUN'S SEIDEN IN TOKYO CITES JAL SPOKESMAN EXPLANATION THAT CATERING SUBSIDIARY EXEC TOOK OWN LIFE "TO APOLOGIZE" FOR MASS FOOD POISONING ON ANCHORAGE-COPENHAGEN FLIGHT. SAYS RESIGNATION "LESS DRASTIC AND MORE MODERN" ALTERNATIVE TO SUICIDE BY HIGH OFFICIAL DISGRACED BY UNDERLING, BUT TRADITIONAL SUICIDE OF RESPONSIBILITY NOT CONSIDERED "BIZARRE OR SHOCKING" IN JAPAN.

JOC'S CULLISON IN TOKYO SPOTLIGHTS SONY, SEES FIRM "MAXIMIZING SALES" TO OVERCOME IMPACT OF INFLATION,

RECESSION AND HIGHER COST OF RAW MATERIALS. EXPORTS GREW 34 PERCENT LAST YEAR, BUT COMPANY EXECS EXPECT DIFFICULTIES THIS YEAR, UNTIL CONSUMER SPENDING RESURGES IN SUCH MAJOR MARKETS AS US.

5. THAILAND

ASSEMBLY NAMED DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADER SENI PRAMOJ PREMIER BY VOICE VOTE THURSDAY, DEFEATING CHATICHAI CHOONHAYAN OF THAI NATIONAL PARTY BY 81 VOTES (GLOBE); UNCLASSIFIED

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133-52 VOTE GIVES SENI TWO LESS THAN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IN 269 SEAT ASSEMBLY, AS 38 ABSTAIN, 46 ABSENT (REUTER, WP).

6. PHILIPPINES

UPI (WASHINGTON) CITES DOS SOURCE SAYING US HAS NOT RECEIVED GOP REQUEST FOR MILITARY AID, BUT DECLINING COMMENT ON MARCOS STATEMENT EARLIER THAT GOP MADE REPEATED REQUESTS TO US FOR MIL AID TO QUELL MOSLEM REBELLION.

NYT (MANILA) REPORTS GOP HALTED ALL SUGAR SALES WEDNESDAY, TO INVENTORY STOCKS OF MAIN SOURCE OF EXPORT EARNINGS. NEW CONTROLS INSPIRED BY DISCOVERY 100,000 TONS SMUGGLED OUT OF COUNTRY TO BYPASS OOP PRICING POLICIES. MANILA ALSO PROTESTS TO AMEMBASSY THAT TWO BIG US BASES BUY SUGAR FROM PHIL SUPPLIERS, INSTEAD OF US.

7. AUSTRALIA

WP'S SWEENEY IN SYDNEY SAYS AUSSIES MAY FACE NEW

ELECTION BECAUSE STATE PM WON'T FOLLOW POLITICAL TRADITION OF NAMING SUCCESSOR TO SENATE SEAT FROM SAME PARTY THAT VACATED IT. PROBLEM AROSE WHEN WHITLAM PICKED LABOR SEN FOR SUPREME COURT, MISTAKENLY ASSUMING LIBERAL PM IN NSW WOULD FILL VACANT SEAT FROM LABOR PARTY -- BUT HE SAYS HE WON'T. IF HE DOESN'T, CONSERVATIVES WILL OUTNUMBER LABOR IN SENATE, 30-28, AND COULD PASS BILLS INSTEAD OF BLOCKING THEM BY TIE VOTE. WHITLAM SAID READY TO RESUBMIT BILL REJECTED EARLIER, AS "TOO RADICAL," AND IF IT FAILS AGAIN WOULD BE FREE TO DISSOLVE HOUSE ONLY, OR BOTH HOUSE AND SENATE, FOR NEW ELECTIONS.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

8. INDOCHINA

ANTHONY LEWIS (NYT), IN ARTICLE ENTITLED "MR. KISSINGER'S UNCLASSIFIED

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WAR: II," ASKS WHY HAK SO DETERMINED TO HOLD BACK PROCESS OF POLITICAL CHANGE AND ACCOMMODATION IN SVN, AND TO SUPPORT THIEU'S REFUSAL TO CARRY OUT C-F POLITICAL TERMS. SAYS ANSWER GOES BACK TO 1969 SECRET MEETINGS WITH USSR AMBASSADOR IN WHICH HAK MADE CLEAR SOVIETS WERE EXPECTED TO HELP ACHIEVE VN SETTLEMENT LEAVING GVN IN POWER AS PART OF PRICE FOR DETENTE. RUSSIANS IMPLICITLY ACCEPTED, BUT FAILED TO FORCE HANOI INTO SETTLEMENT AGREEABLE TO HAK; THEN TOLERATED HARSH US MEASURES AGAINST NVN. LEWIS SAYS THIS BACKGROUND MAKES CLEAR HAK HAS MADE ANTI-COMMUNIST GOVTS IN SVN AND IN CAMBODIA "SYMBOL OF MANHOOD" IN HIS DIPLOMACY; IF WE PERMIT CHANGE THAT WE TOLD RUSSIANS WE WOULDN'T, THEY WILL NOT TAKE US SERIOUSLY ON ANY ISSUE. SECSTATE ARGUES GVN TOO WEAK TO NEGOTIATE NOW, AND IN PRIVATE MAKES NO PRETENSE GVN CAN REGAIN MIL AND POLITICAL STRENGTH IT HAD TWO YRS AGO.

LEWIS OPINES THAT STRIKING FEATURE OF HAK POSITION IS HOW LITTLE IT HAS TO DO WITH WISHES OF VIETS OR KHMERS. ANOTHER NOTABLE ASPECT IS HOW COMMITMENT TO PARTICULAR OUTCOME IN VN AND CAMBODIA, OBTAINABLE ONLY BY PERPETUAL WAR, CONFLICTS WITH IMAGE HAK CONVEYED TO DOVES OVER YEARS AS ONE WHO WANTED TO END FIGHTING. THIRD STRIKING THING IS THAHAK DECISION TO MAKE VN HIS SYMBOL OF STRENGTH WAS TAKEN WITHOUT CONSULTING CONGRESS, OR INFORMING IT OF HIS TRUE THINKING. BELIEVES RESENTMENT AT DECEPTION IS CATCHING UP WITH SECSTATE; QUOTES SEN STEVENSON TO THIS EFFECT.

SUN EXPECTS CONGRESS' FIRST QUESTION, WHEN ASKED

FOR INDOCHINA SUPPLEMENTAL, TO BE HOW PRES PROPOSES
TO GET EXTRA ARMS AND SUPPLIES TO PP. POINT WILL
BE WHETHER COMMITMENT TO SUPPLY GKR WITH MORE ARMS
IMPLIES COMMITMENT TO DELIVER GOODS. QUOTES US
DIPLOMATS IN BANGKOK THAT BERLIN-SIZED AIRLIFT
IMPOSSIBLE DUE TO GKR INABILITY TO PROVIDE SECURITY
AGAINST AA FIRE. SEES THIS WARNING PROVIDING
"ONLY A SAMPLE" OF RISK OF DEEPER US INVOLVEMENT
INHERENT IN ANY COMMITMENT TO BRING LARGE QUANTITIES
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OF WAR MATERIAL TO PP. OPINES THAT US INVOLVEMENT
WITH GKR IN MANY WAYS "LESS UNATTRACTIVE" AND LESS
BINDING THAN THAT WITH SVN. NOTES KHMERS WANTED TO

FIGHT FOR THEIR TERRITORY AND US GAVE THEM WEAPONS.

POINTS OUT THAT LON NOL, UNDER US PRESSURE, HAS MADE
SOME GENUINE, IF LESS-THAN-EFFECTIVE, EFFORTS TO
CLEAN UP CORRUPTION, AND KHMER SOLDIER "REGULARLY
DEMONSTRATES A MARTIAL SPIRIT" THAT IS LESS OFTEN
SEEN AMONG SOUTH VIETS. BELIEVES TEMPTING TO FEEL
WE SHOULD ASSIST SUCH AN ALLY SO LONG AS HE IS WILLING
TO FIGHT. SAYS NOTHING HAS YET COME TO LIGHT TO
SUGGEST SIHANOUK'S REPLACEMENT BY CURRENT REGIME
WAS ACHIEVED UNDER US AUSPICES, SO LESS REASON TO PROP
IT UP THAN WOULD BE IN CASE OF SVN. AND EVEN LESS
REASON TO MAKE NEW COMMITMENTS THAT WOULD RISK DEEPER
US INVOLVEMENT, AS MIGHT BE CASE WITH PROMISE OF
WEAPONS THAT COULD BE DELIVERED ONLY BY MASSIVE AIRLIFT.

WP CONSIDERS NEW POLITICS OF FOOD AID, NOTING ADMIN IS
PRODUCING RECORD WORTHY OF PRAISE. RECALLS IN 1974
CONGRESS LIMITED "POLITICAL" FOOD AID TO 30-PCT WHICH
LEFT ADMIN WITH NOT ENOUGH FOOD, IN ITS JUDGMENT, TO
MEET POLITICAL OBJECTIVES IN COUNTRIES SUCH AS SVN
AND EGYPT. TO MAKE 30-PCT SLICE LARGER, ADMIN AGREED
TO INCREASE TOTAL PROGRAM. WP CALLS IT NEAT POLITICAL
DEAL, BUT SEES FUTURE OF FOOD AID AS FAR FROM ASSURED
AND WHOLE PROGRAM "THOROUGHLY POLITICAL ISSUE."

9. CHINA

IN FOURTH OF FIVE-PART SERIES ON WORLDWIDE "FEAR OF
SCARCITY," CSM'S OKA HOLDS THAT SOLE SOCIETY THAT
SO FAR SEEMS TO HAVE MANAGED GIGANTIC FEAT OF MAKING
MAXIMUM USE OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND MINIMUM USE OF
OBVIOUSLY WORKS." UNLIKE OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES,
CHINESE HAVE NOT RUSHED TO IMPORT LATEST AND BEST IN
WESTERN INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY. THEIR AGRICULTURE
HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED, HILLS LEVELED, GULLIES FILLED
IN, AND ALL DONE MOSTLY BY HUMAN FEET AND HANDS.

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CHINESE ARE IN DEBT TO NO ONE, BEHOLDEN TO NO ONE. THEIR PEOPLE ARE HEALTHY, AND THERE IS NO STARVATION. WERE 20 MILLION PEOPLE KILLED IN PROCESS OF ACHIEVING THIS SOCIETY? MOST CHINA EXPERTS CONSIDER FIGURE GROSSLY EXAGGERATED, AND RUTH WILL PROBABLY NEVER BE KNOWN; BUT CHINESE HAVE PAID HIGH PRICE, IN HUMAN TERMS, FOR WHAT THEY HAVE ACCOMPLISHED. SO FAR, PRC DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE SCORED NOTABLE SUCCESSES IN TEACHING OTHER COUNTRIES THEIR METHODS OF ORGANIZATION.

METHODS WOULD NOT WORK IN WEST, OR IN JAPAN, BECAUSE THEY REQUIRE WILLING SUBMERGENCE OF INDIVIDUAL IN MASS THAT MOST WESTERNERS WOULD FIND INTOLERABLE.

NEVERTHELESS, SAYS OKA, CHINESE EXAMPLE CHALLENGES WESTERN CITADEL OF MATERIAL ABUNDANCE. HOW IS SOCIETY WHOSE NOBLEST ACHIEVEMENTS ARE BASED ON PROGRESSIVE LIBERATION OF INDIVIDUAL MAN TO SURVIVE? BY ADOPTING COLLECTIVIST METHODS? REAL ANSWER WILL NOT BE FOUND IN REALMS OF DOCTRINE OR THEORY. TO GIVE CHINESE THEIR DUE, THEIR SOLUTIONS DID NOT SPRING FULLBLOWN FROM MARXIST-LENINIST DOGMA, EVEN AS MODIFIED BY MAO. THEY WERE WORKED OUT STEP BY PAINFUL STEP WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF THEIR PARTICULAR VISION. AND WITH ALL THEIR FAULTS AND SHORTCOMINGS, VISITORS CREDIT THEM WITH EVOLVING MORE OR LESS EGALITARIAN SOCIETY GEARED TO FAIR SHARING OF SCARCITY. THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN INDIVIDUALITY AND LIMITLESS CAPABILITIES OF MAN UNDER SUPREME SPIRITUAL POWER ARE CHALLENGED AS NEVER BEFORE TO ACCEPT AND PRACTICE FULL CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR VISION.

LAT'S ELEGANT, IN HK, SEES NEW PRC CONSTITUTION PROMISING MASSES MUCH GREATER INTELLECTUAL/ECON FREEDOMS, WHILE AT SAME TIME ABOLISHING ALL PRETENSE OF POLITICAL FREEDOM OR DEMOCRACY, AS UNDERSTOOD IN WEST. FOR CHINA, MOST STRIKING ASPECT OF NEW "CHOW MEIN COMMUNISM" IS REPUDIATION OF IMPOSSIBLE GOALS MAO SOUGHT TO ATTAIN BY RUTHLESSLY "REMOLDING" CHARACTER OF EVERY CHINESE INDIVIDUAL FOR BENEFIT OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST MOVEMENT. LIKE SOVIET

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LEADERS, CHINESE HAVE NOW RECOGNIZED LIMITS OF HUMAN PERFECTABILITY; THEY ARE MORE CONCERNED WITH EVOLUTIONARY DAY-TO-DAY PROGRESS THROUGH SMALL ADVANCES THAN WITH "GREAT LEAPS" TOWARD ALMOST UNEARTHLY IDEAL OF MANKIND (FEB 12). INGERSOLL

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